

IN THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1-27. (Canceled).

28. **(Currently Amended)** A method for testing a multi-tier application having a presentation layer, a business layer, and a third layer for storing information associated with the multi-tier application, wherein the method comprises:

sending known test inputs to a first instance of the multi-tier application;

receiving output from the first instance of the multi-tier application responsive to the known test inputs, **the output in a geographic-specific and linguistic specific format;**

converting the output into a geographic-neutral and linguistic-neutral format;

establishing predicted output for the multi-tier application based on the converted output; [[and]]

generating a test script for the multi-tier application by associating the predicted output with the known test inputs; **and**

storing the test script in a geographic-neutral and linguistic-neutral format based on a predefined Extensible Markup Language (“XML”) schema, wherein the test script is to send the known test inputs **in the geographic-neutral and linguistic-neutral format** to the business layer of a second instance of the multi-tier application, bypassing the presentation layer, and compare results from the second instance of the multi-tier application with the predicted output.

29. (Previously presented) The method of claim 28, further comprising:

converting the known test inputs into the geographic-neutral and linguistic-neutral format; and

storing the converted known test inputs and the converted output in an application independent format.

30. (Previously presented) The method of claim 29, wherein storing the converted known test inputs and the converted output in the application independent format comprises:

storing the converted known test inputs and the converted output in the geographic-neutral and linguistic-neutral format based on a predefined Extensible Markup Language (“XML”) schema.

31. (Previously presented) The method of claim 30, further comprising:

sending the known test inputs in the geographic-neutral and linguistic-neutral format to the presentation layer of the second instance of the multi-tier application, the presentation layer preparing the known test inputs according to predefined presentation logic and generating presentation layer output responsive to the known test inputs provided; and

comparing the presentation layer output with the predicted output from the first instance of the multi-tier application.

32. (Previously presented) The method of claim 28, further comprising:

storing the known test inputs and the associated predicted output within a test library, wherein the test library is accessible via the test script, the test script used to test the second and subsequent instances of the multi-tier application.

33. (Previously presented) The method of claim 28, wherein the second instance of the multi-tier application comprises an application under test, wherein the application under test is used to generate the results for comparison with the predicted output from the first instance of the multi-tier application.

34. (Previously presented) The method of claim 28, wherein the test script is to send the known test inputs to the business layer of the second instance of the multi-tier application, bypassing the presentation layer, comprises:

sending the known test inputs via a Hyper Text Transport Protocol (“HTTP”) request, wherein the HTTP request is received at the business layer of the second instance of the multi-tier application without engaging logic at the presentation layer of the second instance of the multi-tier application.

35. (Canceled).

36. (Previously presented) The method of claim 34, further comprising:
specifying via the HTTP request, a network location accessible to the second instance of the multi-tier application to store the results generated in response to the known test inputs sent to the second instance of the multi-tier application.

37. **(Currently Amended)** A test control system for testing a multi-tier application having a presentation layer, a business layer, and a third layer for storing information associated with the multi-tier application, wherein the system comprises:

means for sending known test inputs to a first instance of the multi-tier application;

means for receiving output from the first instance of the multi-tier application responsive to the known test inputs, the output in a geographic-specific and linguistic specific format;

means for converting the output into a geographic-neutral and linguistic-neutral format;

means for establishing predicted output for the multi-tier application based on the converted output; [[and]]

means for generating a test script for the multi-tier application by associating the predicted output with the known test inputs; and

means for storing the test script in a geographic-neutral and linguistic-neutral format based on a predefined Extensible Markup Language (“XML”) schema, wherein the test script is to send the known test inputs in the geographic-neutral and linguistic-neutral format to the business layer of a second instance of the

multi-tier application, bypassing the presentation layer, and compare results from the second instance of the multi-tier application with the predicted output.

38. (Previously presented) The test control system of claim 37, further comprising:
means for converting the known test inputs into the geographic-neutral and linguistic-neutral format; and
means for storing the converted known test inputs and the converted output in an application independent format.

39. (Previously presented) The test control system of claim 38, wherein storing the converted known test inputs and the converted output in the application independent format comprises:
means for storing the converted known test inputs and the converted output in the geographic-neutral and linguistic-neutral format based on a predefined Extensible Markup Language (“XML”) schema.

40. (Previously presented) The test control system of claim 39, further comprising:
means for sending the known test inputs in the geographic-neutral and linguistic-neutral format to the presentation layer of the second instance of the multi-tier application, the presentation layer preparing the known test inputs according to predefined presentation logic and generating presentation layer output responsive to the known test inputs provided; and
means for comparing the presentation layer output with the predicted output from the first instance of the multi-tier application.

41. (Previously presented) The test control system of claim 37, further comprising:
means for storing the known test inputs and the associated predicted output within a test library, wherein the test library is accessible via the test script, the test script used to test the second and subsequent instances of the multi-tier application.

42. (Previously presented) The test control system of claim 37, wherein the second instance of the multi-tier application comprises an application under test, wherein the application under test is used to generate the results for comparison with the predicted output from the first instance of the multi-tier application.

43. (Previously presented) The test control system of claim 37, wherein sending the known test inputs to the business layer of the second instance of the multi-tier application, bypassing the presentation layer, comprises:

means for sending the known test inputs via a Hyper Text Transport Protocol ("HTTP") request, wherein the HTTP request is received at the business layer of the second instance of the multi-tier application without engaging logic at the presentation layer of the second instance of the multi-tier application.

44. (Canceled).

45. (Previously presented) The test control system of claim 43, further comprising:

means for specifying via the HTTP request, a network location accessible to the second instance of the multi-tier application to store the results generated in response to the known test inputs sent to the second instance of the multi-tier application.

46. **(Currently Amended)** An article of manufacture having test control instructions stored thereon for testing a multi-tier application comprising a presentation layer, a business layer, and a third layer for storing information associated with the multi-tier application, wherein the test control instructions, when executed by a processor, cause the processor to perform operations comprising:

sending known test inputs to a first instance of the multi-tier application;

receiving output from the first instance of the multi-tier application responsive to the known test inputs, **the output in a geographic-specific and linguistic specific format;**

converting the output into a geographic-neutral and linguistic-neutral format;

establishing predicted output for the multi-tier application based on the converted output; [[and]]

generating a test script for the multi-tier application by associating the predicted output with the known test inputs; and

storing the test script in a geographic-neutral and linguistic-neutral format based on a predefined Extensible Markup Language (“XML”) schema, wherein the test script is to send the known test inputs in the geographic-neutral and linguistic-neutral format to the business layer of a second instance of the multi-tier application, bypassing the presentation layer, and compare results from the second instance of the multi-tier application with the predicted output.

47. (Previously presented) The article of manufacture of claim 46, wherein the test control instructions cause the processor to perform further operations comprising:

converting the known test inputs into the geographic-neutral and linguistic-neutral format; and

storing the converted known test inputs and the converted output in an application independent format.

48. (Previously presented) The article of manufacture of claim 47, wherein storing the converted known test inputs and the converted output in the application independent format comprises:

storing the converted known test inputs and the converted output in the geographic-neutral and linguistic-neutral format based on a predefined Extensible Markup Language (“XML”) schema.

49. (Previously presented) The article of manufacture of claim 48, wherein the test control instructions cause the processor to perform further operations comprising:

sending the known test inputs in the geographic-neutral and linguistic-neutral format to the presentation layer of the second instance of the multi-tier application, the presentation layer preparing the known test inputs according to predefined presentation

logic and generating presentation layer output responsive to the known test inputs provided; and

comparing the presentation layer output with the predicted output from the first instance of the multi-tier application.

50. (Previously presented) The article of manufacture of claim 46, wherein the test control instructions cause the processor to perform further operations comprising:

storing the known test inputs and the associated predicted output within a test library, wherein the test library is accessible via the test script, the test script used to test the second and subsequent instances of the multi-tier application.

51. (Previously presented) The article of manufacture of claim 46, wherein the second instance of the multi-tier application comprises an application under test, wherein the application under test is used to generate the results for comparison with the predicted output from the first instance of the multi-tier application.

52. (Previously presented) The article of manufacture of claim 46, wherein the test script is to send the known test inputs to the business layer of the second instance of the multi-tier application, bypassing the presentation layer, comprises:

sending the known test inputs via a Hyper Text Transport Protocol (“HTTP”) request, wherein the HTTP request is received at the business layer of the second instance of the multi-tier application without engaging logic at the presentation layer of the second instance of the multi-tier application.

53. (Canceled).

54. (Previously presented) The article of manufacture of claim 52, wherein the test control instructions cause the processor to perform further operations comprising:

specifying via the HTTP request, a network location accessible to the second instance of the multi-tier application to store the results generated in response to the known test inputs sent to the second instance of the multi-tier application.

55. (Previously presented). The method of claim 28, wherein the test script is to compare the results from the second instance of the multi-tier application with the predicted output comprises:

converting the results from the second instance of the multi-tier application into the geographic-neutral and linguistic-neutral format; and
comparing the converted results with the predicted output.

56. (Previously presented) The method of claim 28, wherein the presentation layer generates code for a web browser connected with the first instance of the multi-tier application; and wherein

the web browser provides the known test inputs to the first instance of the multi-tier application via a Uniform Resource Locator (“URL”).

57. (Previously presented) The method of claim 56, wherein the presentation layer of the first instance of the multi-tier application receives the known test inputs and sends the known test inputs to the business layer of the first instance of the multi-tier application.